REMARKS

The following remarks are responsive to the points raised in the March 31, 2003 non-final Office Action. Claims 1-12 are pending. No new matter has been introduced. Entry and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Response to Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Fukasaka et al. ((Fukasaka) EP 0 860 978 A2). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Independent Claim 1 recites an image sensing apparatus including, inter alia, signal generation means for generating a trigger signal to perform an image-sensing operation,

> "wherein if image sensing apparatus and said information processing apparatus are connected to each other and said information processing apparatus is in a suspended status, said image sensing apparatus transmits a resume signal via said transmission/reception means to said information processing apparatus, in accordance with said trigger signal."

Independent Claims 9 and 11 recite a control method for an image sensing apparatus and an image-sensing method in an image sensing apparatus, respectively, including, inter alia, a step of:

> " if said image sensing apparatus and said information processing apparatus are connected to each other and said information processing apparatus is in a suspended status, transmitting a resume signal from said image sensing apparatus via said transmission/reception means to said information processing apparatus, in accordance with said trigger signal",

whereas, independent Claim 10 recites a storage medium containing a control program for controlling an image sensing means that includes program code for carrying out the the above-identified step.

Independent Claim 12 recites a control apparatus for controlling an image sensing apparatus including, inter alia, signal generation means for generating a trigger signal to perform an image-sensing related operation:

> "wherein if said image sensing apparatus and said information processing apparatus are connected to each other and said information processing apparatus is in a suspended status, said control apparatus controls said image sensing apparatus to transmit a resume signal via said transmission/reception means to said information processing apparatus, in accordance with said trigger signal."

Fukasaka discloses a camera that, inter alia, transmits image signals to a computer as moving image signals or still image signals in accordance with the operation of a shutter button of the camera. Fukasaka discloses that when the shutter button is pressed, the camera control detects such operation and transmits an application execution request signal to the computer for instructing the computer to execute a predetermined application program consistent with the type of image signal, i.e., moving or still, to be transmitted from the camera to the computer. In Fukasawa, an application software of the computer is started when a release button of the camera is turned on, but the computer is not resumed by turning on the release button of the camera when the computer is in a suspended status, such as, for example, in a power save mode. As such, the user of the Fukasawa teaching cannot use the camera by merely turning on the release button of the camera side, and it is necessary to operate the computer to resume the computer when the

computer is in the suspended status. It is very troublesome when the camera is located in a remote location with respect to the computer.

In the present invention, even if a signal processing apparatus is in a suspended status, the signal processing apparatus is resumed only by generating a trigger signal in an image sensing apparatus side, because the image sensing apparatus is constructed so as to transmit a resume signal to the information processing apparatus. In other words, the signal processing apparatus is automatically resumed when a release switch of the image sensing apparatus is turned on. By virtue of this, an operability of the image sensing apparatus is improved.

As such, the invention recited in independent Claims 1 and 9-12 are distinguished over the prior art reference of Fukasaka. Dependent Claims 2-8 are likewise distinguished over Fukasaka for at least the same reason as discussed for independent Claim 1. Accordingly, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1-12 are in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

AUTHORIZATIONS:

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for the timely consideration of this amendment, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-4623.

Respectfully submitted,
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